

**B & W CONSTRUCTION**

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Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division, Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Ste. 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

**VIA FACSIMILE**  
(202) 616-9937

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I am a small business person in California. Between my federal and state taxes, I pay among the highest rates in the country. For someone like me to receive a tax break, the political warfare is outrageous. I also am forced to deal with the ebbs and flows of the economy. Those same leaders who fight giving me a tax break are the first people to institute policies which slow the economy.

These are the same individuals who are asking the court to reject the settlement in US v. Microsoft. They are not small business people struggling to make enough money to pay their tax bill. They are politicians acting in their own self interest.

The Microsoft case is a perfect example of an issue which quietly destroys small business without anyone putting a stop to it. Since the day the Microsoft case began, I have been affected. I have been affected by a slow down in the entire economy and I have been affected by a tremendous slow down in the technology industry. Now, California leaders are talking about a tax increase to help pay for programs. They talk about a tax increase in one breath and ask for more money to pursue the case against Microsoft in the next. It doesn't make any sense.

The Microsoft issue is hurting small business. Taxes hurt small business. If they are going to raise taxes, then don't spend money on ridiculous issues.

The settlement should be approved. That money is better spent elsewhere (like whatever programs they are going to raise my taxes to pay for)

Sincerely,



Holly Bonnett, Owner  
B & W Construction